

Nine steps that can improve biosecurity on the farm

A risk assessment report finds that the swine sector is ill-prepared for an outbreak of disease or any other emergency and recommends a number of measures to improve response

Biosecurity begins at the farm gate. That's one of the conclusions of "The Biosecurity Gap: Analysis and Risk Assessment of Ontario's Pork Industry," a report prepared by the Ontario Pork Industry Council (OPIC) and its OPIC Swine Health Advisory Board (OSHAB).

While the report, funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, identifies diseases of concern and potential gaps in the biosecurity and emergency preparedness of the industry, Phase 1 of the plan deals with implementation at the farm or facility.

"Nine targeted on-farm actions have been identified as having immediate impact," the report says. They include: setting up a restricted access zone around the barn; having facility-specific clothing; maintaining controlled entry, including a hand-washing facility; quarantine capacity along with an isolation and testing protocol; a replacement sourcing plan, which includes known animal history; requirements for service vehicles and service personnel; and barn equipment washing protocols.

The report notes that, while biosecurity awareness is increasing, there is "no clear strategy by sector" for input suppliers and professional services.

"While some activities, such as animal transport, manure spreading, barn cleaning and dead stock removal, are considered high risk, other less obvious practices, such as the delivery of feed using feed company pipes, bagged feed delivery into a feed room and the presence of service personnel in the active barn area, can pose significant risks as well."

When it comes to emergency preparedness, the report finds "the swine sector is not prepared for an outbreak of disease or any other emergency, other than responding to Canadian Food Inspection Agen-

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cy directives during on-site activity at an infected location."

In order to advance disease emergency preparedness, the report recommends governments work with industry to develop "clear statements" on levels of authority and responsibility to deal with "foreign animal disease and diseases of economic significance." Generally, the report recommends development of an industry leadership team, emergency and biosecurity working groups and a pork industry command centre to co-ordinate activity.

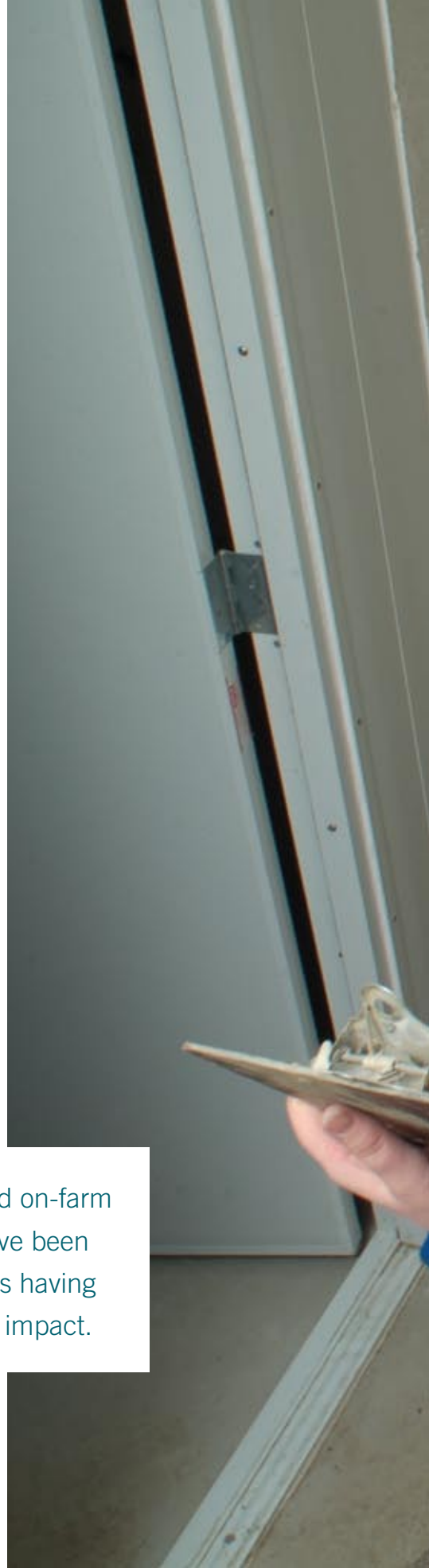
To advance emergency preparedness for the Ontario pork industry, an emergency preparedness communications system proposal has been developed by OPIC in collaboration with Ontario Pork. Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Ontario, this program is delivered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council.

To continue to advance understanding and acceptance of biosecurity principles, OSHAB has developed an Ontario PRRS Elimination Trial proposal.

OPIC/OSHAB managing director Lori Moser says the project "will allow the Ontario pork industry to make strides towards the control and elimination of PRRS virus and advance biosecurity practices." The project will see an area of Ontario selected that has a reasonable chance of success for the elimination of PRRS.

"Producer commitment is essential to the success of this project," she notes, and project progress will be communicated to the producers in the selected area through kitchen table meetings. ■

Nine targeted on-farm actions have been identified as having immediate impact.





LEFT:
Lori Moser



RESEARCH PROFILE

BY MIKE MULHERN

Lori Moser

Lori Moser, managing director of the Ontario Pork Industry Council (OPIC), has never been far from the world of agriculture.

Raised on a farrow-to-finish family farm in Perth County, she attended the University of Waterloo, graduating in 1988 with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in co-operative biology.

Her first job after university was as a microbiologist working for AstraZeneca in Mississauga, where she was involved in the research and development of products for agriculture, forestry and paper applications.

In 2001, Moser was appointed technical marketing director of Gallant Custom Laboratories Inc., in Cambridge, Ont. Gallant provides herd-specific vaccines prescribed through licensed veterinarians with a focus on the swine industry and Moser's job was market development of those products.

Moser moved to her current position as managing director of OPIC in 2007. OPIC is a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven organization which represents the needs and interests of all sectors involved in the pork industry.

Committed to continuous self-improvement, Moser has taken a number of courses since her 1988 university graduation in such areas as communications, health and safety and experimental design and statistical analysis.